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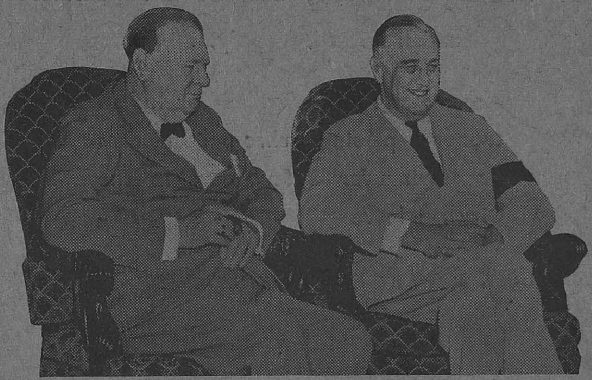
MADRAS WAR REVIEW

A WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE WORLD WAR

VOL IV FRIDAY, JULY 23, 1943 No. 45

Message to the Italian People



MR. CHURCHILL MR. ROOSEVELT

At this moment the combined Armed Forces of the United States, Great Britain, and Canada, under the command of General Eisenhower and his Deputy, General Sir H. Alexander, are carrying the war deep into the territory of your country

This is the direct consequence of the shameful leadership to which you have been subjected by Mussolini and his Fascist regime

Mussolini carried you into this war as the satellite of a brutal destroyer of peoples and liberties. Mussolini plunged you into a war which he thought Hitler had already won

Your soldiers have fought not in the interests of Italy, but for Nazi Germany. They have fought courageously, but they have been betrayed and abandoned by the Germans on the Russian Front, and on every battlefield in Africa, from El Alamein to Cape Bon

In a joint message from Mr. ROOSEVELT and Mr. CHURCHILL, broadcast from Algiers to the people of Italy, 16th July 1943

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SERGEANT ENJOYS INDIAN NEW YEAR'S DAY

It was New Year's Day—although not the one in Harry Vanston's calendar, but this Sergeant from Bolton, Lancashire, was determined to make a day of it.

The celebration was a South Indian New Year's garden party to which the Sergeant contributed an "Aunt Sally" for the coconut shy, a radiogram, a wireless set, a considerable number of cigarettes and two bags of coconuts. The Padre went along too, although he was certain this New Year's Day was not the one he usually observed.

Several Army trucks and a Bren carrier carried the party to the scene of "operations". Two hours of speeches introduced the proceedings and then the fun began, soldiers and civilians fraternizing in the most friendly way.

Cigarettes, a rarity among these villagers, were accepted with the air of men who usually smoke a double Corona after dinner, while the children satisfied their curiosity by a close inspection of the carrier and the trucks.

After dark there was a firework display with a difference—Verey light pistols providing the illumination.

"Happy New Year," called out Harry Vanston as he drove the carrier back to camp. "Same to you" replied the cleric absent-mindedly.

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Madras War Review

A WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE WORLD WAR

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RUNNING COMMENTARY

Russia—Battle of the Kursk Bulge—German Plan *Reuter's* Special Correspondent in Moscow says that the great battle for the Kursk bulge has entered its most intensive stage so far, both north and south of the bulge. The Germans launched new attacks on a large scale following the regrouping of their forces and the arrival of reinforcements of tanks, planes and ground troops. Though VON KLUGE, the German Commander, hurled in fresh reinforcements, he has not achieved any important operational success. This battle for the Kursk bulge may be stated to be mainly a duel between the latest type of German tank and the latest type of Soviet anti-tank weapon. The result of this battle is bound to have very great repercussions on future tactics in other theatres of war also. The Germans have not made any gains, but if they carry out their object of ironing out the Kursk salient without much loss, they may launch an encircling thrust with the object of taking Moscow from the rear. The main weight of the German attack was directed against the two shoulders of the Kursk salient, north-east from Byelgorod and south-west from Orel. The German plan was that their two claws should meet somewhere behind Kursk, an important centre of communications. They threw a considerable amount of armour, which has not produced the results they expected so far. Encouraging news continues to come from the Russian front. *Reuter's* Moscow Correspondent says that the breach in the German line north of Orel is being widened and that the constant stream of German reinf rcements has failed to stop the Russian progress. The *Red Star* also reports that the Russian offensive is developing successfully east of Orel.

* * * *

The Flare-up—Nazi Story to Serve Double Purpose The flare-up of hostilities on the Russian front has been given a meaningless explanation by Nazi propagandists. They hint that the Soviet High Command tried to anticipate the German offensive. It seems the German High Command decided not only to bring the Russian thrust in the Byelgorod-Orel sector to an end, but also to follow it up by an offensive of th ir own. They claim to have beaten off Russian attacks and occupied important positions north-west of Byelgorod and north of Kursk. But facts are quite otherwise.

Why did the Germans put out this kind of strange report? They seem to have been inspired by political rather than military considerations. Whatever happens the story can serve their purpose. If the Germans succeed, the story will enhance the reputation of the German army which went to battle against its will, but managed to bring off major successes. If the Germans fail, the explanation is that they did not launch any serious offensive, and that what the German army sought to do was only to blunt the Russian attack. Germans wanted to achieve a complete surprise victory, and having failed, they are now trying to make the best story out of a bad bargain.

It is interesting to note that Nazi propagandists are now very cautious, and they are soft-pedalling the significance of the present fighting. The object of the Germans was, as we said before, to flatten out the Kursk bulge, effect the junction of their forces in the northern Orel sector and the southern Byelgorod sector and short-cut their way to Moscow. But they have not announced their objective with their usual fanfare of trumpets. Their idea is to achieve success if possible, but if they fail, to pretend not to have failed!

* * * *

The Third Summer Offensive—Two Causes of Delay The German attempt, which is their third summer offensive in Russia, was started on the morning of July 5, which was twelve days later in the year than the offensive of 1941, and about fifteen days later than the offensive of 1942. What was the cause of this delay? It was their Tunisian defeat. The unexpectedly early victory of the Allies in Tunisia forced HITLER to concentrate on the defences of the southern walls of his European fortress, and thus prevented him from launching the offensive in Spring. There was also another equally important factor which delayed the German offensive. It was the violent air activity of the Red Air Force behind the German lines. This has considerably dislocated the Nazi transport system and damaged their aerodromes and supply depots which were feeding the German forces in the Front.

* * * *

Hitler's Offensive—Two Years Ago and Now It may be asked why did HITLER launch an offensive in Russia at all this year, when he knew full well that his Atlantic and Mediterranean flanks were threatened by the Anglo-American invasion. One reason was that HITLER had to launch the attack to safeguard German prestige. In November last year, the great Russian counter-offensive had already dealt a blow at German prestige. Another reason was one of strategy. The position of the German battle-line on July 5 was pregnant with uncomfortable possibilities for HITLER. Heavy Russian concentrations in the Kursk salient threatened enemy positions in the Orel sector and the Red Air Force raids on Orel, Bryansk, Karachev and Uneycha clearly showed that the object of the Russians must be to soften up the Orel salient before beginning a major assault.

In such circumstances, it was necessary to forestall the Russian break-through in the Orel bulge and straighten-out the Kursk salient. The German High Command was anxious that when the Allied invasion began, it should not hold untenable positions in the Russian battle-front. A strong defensive line in Russia would enable them to be in a better position to meet the Allied invasion. In 1941 HITLER attacked Russia because he wanted to remove a potential threat to his rear before launching his invasion against Britain, but the present offensive is intended to remove an actual threat to his rear before meeting the Anglo-American invasion of Europe.

Two years ago the initiative was in HITLER's hands Now it is in the hands of the Allies.

SICILY: AXIS RETREAT

COMMENTING on the Sicilian operations *The New York Times* says, "Conscious that this is one of the turning points in history, the whole world to-day watches the battle in Sicily with bated breath. There is confidence and elation among the Allied nations as they watch the widening strips of territory, which their sons are conquering along the Sicilian shores, for every additional strip is a further guarantee of the ultimate success of the whole enterprise." In a single week's fighting the Allies occupied one-third of Sicily, and the latest reports say that half of Sicily is now in their hands. Reports reaching London on Wednesday night stated that a general Axis retreat to the north-east tip of Sicily at Messina has begun. Reconnaissance aircraft report that, after the capture of Enna, there is an eastward movement of all Axis troops who appeared to be taking part in a general retreat to the north-east. Prisoners taken by the Allies in their magnificent drive northwards have revealed that the Germans have retired to the east to make good their get-away into Italy. The position of the enemy defenders of Sicily, it is reported, now looks desperate, for the Catanian plain has been sealed at both ends and Axis troops are in a critical plight.

SUMMING up the general situation on Wednesday evening, General Eisenhower said that, on account of the nature of the terrain and the location of the enemy forces, the task of the Eighth Army, including the Canadians, was one of bitter fighting with generally slow advance. This, he said, gave the Americans a chance of more rapid advance against less resistance to overrun substantial portions of the island and confine the enemy progressively to smaller areas.

EARLIER STAGES

IN the earlier stages of the Sicilian campaign, the enemy was not quite sure of the objective of the Allies. He was, therefore, waiting for the Allied plan of attack to crystallize into shape, as he wanted to be sure where the main blow would fall, before he brought in his reserves. When the British Eighth Army captured Augusta on the east coast and the American Seventh Army occupied Naro in the west, he seems to have made up his mind that these two extremities of the line were selected for the main Allied pressure. That was the reason why Axis resistance which, till then appeared to be feeble, hardened as a result of the flow of the throwing in of reserves of men and material. It was when the Allies were in possession of the entire south-eastern tip of Sicily that the enemy counter-attacked with considerable force. The attacking forces included the 60-ton German "Tiger" tanks and the Hermann Goering Panzer Division. They succeeded in their attempt to regain some of the lost ground, including the port of Augusta, but later, the Allied forces rallied and drove them out.

NOW the task of the Allies is to push wider and deeper into the island, as they have secured certain bridge-heads. The enemy has to try to hold up our advance and drive us back, and finally to throw us off Sicily altogether, if possible. But the last objective is not at all likely to be realized, though the Axis would make a desperate attempt to resist our forces.

IMPORTANCE OF HOLDING SICILY

THERE is considerable evidence to show that the German High Command have realized that the Allied landing in Sicily is a very big business and that its conquest would have serious military and moral repercussions on the Continent. The pro-Axis Turkish Newspaper *Tasviri Efkar*, referring to the importance of holding Sicily, said two weeks ago :

> "If the Allies succeed in getting a firm foot-hold on Sicily and the Southern European Fortress, the totalitarian front may collapse unexpectedly."

THE German High Command know this only too well, and, therefore, it would be rash to assume that the Axis is either militarily "impotent" or that it would let Sicily go undefended. They have the advantage of mountainous terrain in the north and north-eastern regions, and as the battle for Sicily deepens, the Axis defence is bound to grow more and more fierce.

AS usual, Axis propaganda wants to minimize, to the outside world, the importance of the Allied invasion. They emphasize two points. Firstly, that it is not important because it does not constitute a "Second Front," and secondly that it does not answer Russian requirements. As regards the first, it may be pointed out that no responsible Allied leader has referred to the Sicilian operations as the opening of a "Second Front." As regards the second, we have the statement of M. ANDREV ROTVESTEIN, the Chief London Correspondent of the Russian Tass Agency. Addressing a Foreign Press Association luncheon meeting in London, he said, "The Soviet warriors have been heartened by the news that their Allies have taken a great step to a Second Front in Europe."

ATTACK ON HITLER'S STRONGHOLD

NEUTRAL Turkish press opinion has been reflected by M. Atay, Editor of the *Ulus*. He wrote, "The landing in Sicily is not like the one in Crete or in any single island, but means an attack right against the stronghold of Europe." *The New York Times*, to whose comment we have referred at the outset, also says, "Although the Allies have made only a breach in its wall, it is already evident that Hitler's whole European fortress is trembling under the blow."

THE blow has been well-timed and well-executed. But the retreat of the Axis forces, which recalls similar "exploits" in North Africa and Russia, must be taken, not as an indication that the Allies would have an easy walk-over, but as a warning that the real struggle which will take place in the interior will be all the harder and fiercer.

THIS WEEK—IN RETROSPECT

Great Britain at War with Germany as from 11 a.m. on the 3rd September 1939

1940

July 16.—The Japanese Cabinet under Prince Konoye resigned and a new Cabinet was formed. Prince Konoye continued as the Prime Minister.

July 17.—A new Anglo-Japanese Agreement about the use of the Burma Road was concluded.

Mr. Roosevelt was nominated Presidential candidate for the Democratic Party in United States for the third time.

July 19.—Hitler addressed the Reichstag, asking Britain to accept his terms of peace in preference to a war of annihilation.

July 21.—Field-Marshal Smuts replied to Hitler's challenge.

July 22.—Estonia, Lithunia and Latvia joined the Union of Soviet Russia as a measure of safety against threatened German aggression in the Baltic.

July 23.—The second war budget was presented in the House of Commons. Britain was spending at this time £57,000,000 a week on war.

1941

July 15.—This was the end of the third week of the German campaign in Russia. The Russians had fallen back fighting inch by inch in perfect order on the Stalin Line, stretching roughly from the Lake Peipus on the Estonian border in the north, through Ostrov, Polostak, Lepel, Robruisk and Novograd, Volynsk to Podolsk and thence to Bessarabia, where the Soviet troops, retiring beyond the river Pruth, were falling back on the river Dniester, the 1939 boundary.

Russia and Britain were formally proclaimed as Allies by Mr. Churchill in the House of Commons. This announcement came in the wake of a joint agreement signed on 13th July at Moscow between Molotov and Sir Stafford Cripps, Russia and Britain undertaking to render support of all kinds to each other in the prosecution of the war, and neither to negotiate nor conclude an armistice or treaty of peace except by mutual agreement.

Allied armies, mostly Australians, were ordered forward for entry into Beyrout, following an Armistice Agreement, containing 22 points, signed at Acre, capital and seaport of Syria, on 13th July by Allied and Vichy delegates. Before France fell, Weygand had built up a great army in Syria. Even after the Franco-German armistice, it was expected that Weygand would come back and lead his autonomous command to the side of the Allies. And when that failed to happen, Syria was bombarded with propaganda from every direction and riven with factions. The Arabs wanted independence, the Turks wanted Aleppo, Vichy wanted to maintain its mandate, the British wanted an ally, the Germans wanted a springboard in the Middle East and the restless people of Syria wanted fifty different things and set about intriguing for them. Vichy tried a succession of administrators and lastly General Deutz as Vichy's High Commissioner in Syria. Every one made a mess of it, and the worst mess was made by the Italian and German Armistice Delegations in Beyrout, who were the real masters of the place. When Crete was being fought, German aircraft were passing through Syria to assist Rashid Ali against the British in Iraq. It, therefore, became obvious that the country was going to be occupied by one side or the other. Accordingly occupation of Syria began on 8th June 1941 by the Empire forces and the Free French. The French were fighting back for sometime, but in the end they were compelled to sue for terms. The agreement secured the independence of Syria and its strategic and military occupation by the Allies.

July 16.—International tension in the Pacific was underlined by the resignation of the Konoye Cabinet, ostensibly to make room for a stronger government. Pending formation of a new Cabinet Prince Konoye was asked to continue as Premier until at last on October 16, 1941, his "wait and see." Cabinet resigned *en bloc*, and General Tojo, the War Minister, became Premier and formed a Cabinet.

July 23.—Japan imperatively demanded of Vichy cessation of strategic bases in Indo-China.

1942

July 16.—The British Eighth Army under General Auchinleck launched a new offensive against General Rommel's German army at El Alamien. The El Alamien line, 165 miles from Alexandria, was established on 1st July 1942 as a base of operations of the German army when Rommel began the Battle for Egypt on 26th May 1942.

On the Russian front in the second summer offensive of the Germans, the battle for the City of Voronesh reached "paroxysms of battle fury."

His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester arrived in Karachi.

General de Gaulle went to the House of Commons for the first time and addressed the members of Parliament.

July 23.—Fighting flared up again in the battle for Egypt.

COMBINED OPERATIONS PRAYERS

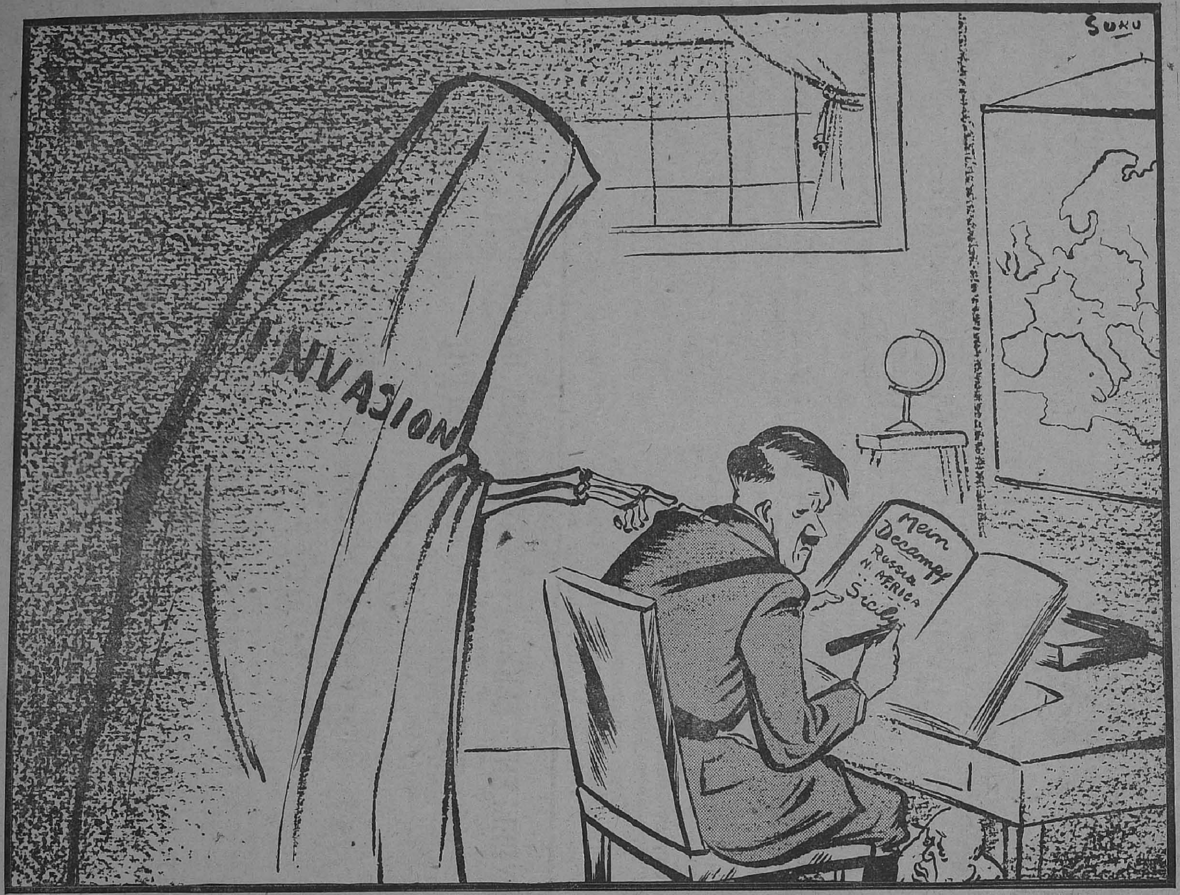
Forces engaged in combined operations have had the following special prayer written for them :—

O ! Lord God, Our Father, Our Saviour, Our Might, we pray Thee take into Thy keeping us who are joined together in a trinity of arms on sea, on land, and in the air in this our special service for King and Country.

We pledge ourselves to do, to dare, to die, that others may live, believing in Him who said : "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

Grant us faith, courage, and determination that we fail not in whatever duty may lie before us, and may we be enabled by Thy Divine Grace to bear our part in establishing peace on earth and goodwill amongst men.

This we ask for Jesus Christ—His sake—Amen.



" Axis Sicilian headquarters have been moved to Reggio in the toe of Italy according to a Berne dispatch to the Stockholm newspaper *Svenska Dagbladet* "

—*Reuter*

THE MAN WHO LEADS THE ATTACK ON OREL FRONT

MARSHAL TIMOSHENKO

MARSHAL Timoshenko has a way of appearing from obscurity whenever the Russian army is in need of a particularly dynamic leader.

Almost nothing has been heard of him since he was transferred from Russia's South-western Front last fall until this month, when he popped up again, leading the Soviet offensive against Orel. In the meantime, however, he is credited with having planned and led the Red Army's successful February-March drive in the north, an offensive which, in eight days, recaptured more than 300 villages and towns.

It was Semyon Konstantinovich Timoshenko who recaptured Rostov in the fall of 1941 when some sort of a military success was essential to Russian morale after the big German drive through the Ukraine. That winter the Marshal led the Russian offensive which came within 12 miles of taking Kharkov. He was again in command the following May in the big drive which, though unsuccessful in itself, threw Hitler's plans for a big spring advance completely out of gear. And he is generally given credit for organizing the defence of Stalingrad, although his transfer from that front came before the autumn crisis.

Timoshenko's friendship with Stalin dates from their first defence of Stalingrad (then Tsaritsin) after the revolution. Son of a Bessarabian peasant, he was once a conscript in the Czar's Army.

—*P.M., New York.*

A BLOW AGAINST STALEMATE

By SAMUEL GRAFTON

WHAT does the invasion of Sicily mean? It means that there is no Fortress of Europe any more. What can be done at one point can be done at another. It means that a year of Hitler propaganda about the European Fortress is thrown out of the window. The roof of the Fortress has leaked for a long time. Now we see that its doors can be kicked open. . .

Oddly enough, Sicily has as much meaning for the Pacific and for Japan as it has for Europe. The attempted Axis excuses, its explanations that Sicily is only an island, will not greatly hearten its island ally in the east. Only an island, is it? So is the main body of Japan only an island and her most important possessions are only islands.

But these, so far, are surface meanings, obvious effects of a great event. Let us dig deeper.

Sicily has ruled out the danger of a stalemate. A stalemate was Hitler's last hope. Prime Minister Churchill warned us of this last May 20th when he said, in the ominous terms: '. . . it is in the dragging out of the war at an enormous expense, until the democracies are tired or bored or split, that the main hopes of Germany and Japan must now reside.'

Sicily is a blow against a stalemate. Hitler's loss of the hope of a stalemate is his most stunning defeat in Sicily, far more important than the ultimate loss of Sicily itself.

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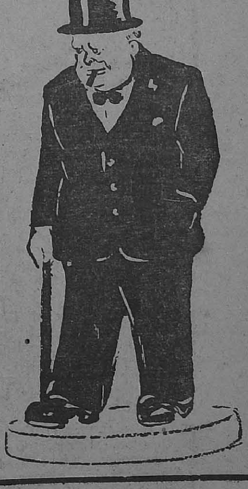


THE PRESIDENT OF CHINA

By ANN SITWELL

LIN SEN, President of the Chinese National Government, is one of the experienced statesmen in China. Born nearly 80 years ago at Foochow in Fukien, he has lived through some of the most crucial years in Chinese history. He has known China in the nineteenth century, weak and disunited. He worked with Dr. Sun Yat-sen, the Father of the Chinese Revolution, during the earliest days of revolutionary activity and remained loyal to his leader during the difficult years of civil war, intrigue and disappointment. After Dr. Sun's death, Lin Sen became a member of Chiang Kai-shek's Government and has risen to the highest political office in the country. The whole of his long life has been devoted to public affairs and to the building of modern China.

Lin Sen received his education in China and the United States. He joined Dr. Sun Yat-sen's revolutionary movement in America. This movement among the Chinese living abroad was extremely important during the critical years before the Revolution of 1911. Though Dr. Sun was an exile, pursued by the vengeance of the Manchu authorities, and he and his adherents in China lived in daily danger of their lives, they were able to draw moral and financial support as well as sympathy from the Chinese patriots abroad. Lin Sen joined Dr. Sun's party, the Teng Min Hui—later the Kuomintang—as one of its original members.

ELECTED TO FIRST PARLIAMENT

He returned to China shortly after the Revolution of 1911 and was elected a senator of the first Chinese Parliament. From then onwards all his time and energies were used in political activity. The actual rule of the Kuomintang was restricted to Canton and its surrounding neighbourhood, but the influence of the Kuomintang and the Three Principles of Dr. Sun Yat-sen spread rapidly over the country, reaching the most distant provinces, disseminated by students, teachers and political workers.

To the Chinese people suffering from the extortions of rival warlords in the northern and central provinces these young patriots brought the message of the Three Principles, Nationalism, Democracy and the Welfare of the People. The moral influence of the Kuomintang was far more powerful than its material resources, for it represented all the most progressive elements in China; and its intense propaganda prepared the way for the march of Chiang Kai-shek's army in his successful campaigns of 1927–28.

Lin Sen proved his loyalty and ability as head of the Fukien administration from 1922 onwards. In 1924 he was elected to a post of higher responsibility, becoming a member of the Central Executive Committee of the Kuomintang and head of the Foreign Affairs branch.

LIN SUPPORTS CHIANG

When the breach in the party appeared in the years following Dr. Sun's death, Lin Sen decided to support Chiang Kai-shek and the right wing and centre of the Party. He believed that this course was in the best interests of the Chinese people; he had worked with Chiang when they were both attached to the military headquarters and had formed a high opinion of the young general's ability. The triumphant success of the Northern expedition against the war lords seemed to justify his choice.

During 1927 all the Yangtse provinces were freed from the oppressions of the warlords, and by 1928 Peking, the Northern capital, had fallen and the shadowy Peking Government came to an ignominious end. A new National Government of China was constituted in Nanking, and Chiang Kai-shek, as its head, chose Lin Sen as one of his key men.

Lin had been appointed as a member of the Chekiang Division of the Central Political Council in 1927 and he now resigned this office to serve on the Overseas Affairs Commission in Nanking. His special knowledge of international affairs and his experience in organizing the Foreign Affairs Branch of the Kuomintang fitted him admirably for this new work. He also became a member of the State Council of the National Government and Vice-President of the Legislative Yuan. This is one of the five Yuans, recommended by Dr. Sun as the framework of the Chinese constitution, the others being the Executive Yuan, the Examinations Yuan, the Judicial Yuan, and the Central Yuan. On the resignation of Hu Han-min from the presidency of the Yuan in 1931, Lin Sen was promoted to this office and in the following year he became President of the National Government, the position he holds to-day.

A REVERED STATESMAN

In this highly responsible capacity Lin Sen has been closely associated with the constructive work of the National Government and has taken an active part in promoting China's war effort. The work of the National Government in the years of peace before the Japanese attack is well known. A National Economic Council was formed and under its guidance, agricultural methods were much improved, irrigation extended, land reclaimed and measures taken to prevent flood and famine. Communications were advanced, thousands of miles of railroads were laid, and civil airways started. Hospitals, health centres and schools were extended on the advice of the League of Nations experts who were invited to China by the National Government.

Lin Sen, as President of the National Government, is one of the most revered and experienced statesmen in China. The old revolutionary leader who shared the hopes and dreams of Sun Yat-sen is seeing those hopes gradually being fulfilled to-day.

China as one of the four great progressive powers in the world to-day will play an important part in reconstruction in the Far East after the war. She has attained the full stature of a nation: she is making strides towards democracy and freedom from want for her people. The events of one man's life are only a brief chapter in the long history of China; but it may prove to be the most heroic chapter of all.

NEW TREND IN CHINA

By GUENTHER STEIN

ONE of the most important ideological developments in China in recent years has been an effort to revive the application of the political wisdom of the ancient Chinese sages.

The retreat of the Government to the interior and the growing difficulties of practically everybody in Chungking in getting foreign newspapers, journals, and books have further contributed to the increase of the popularity of the Chinese classics.

Many of the leading people who were so overwhelmed with flood of modern, mainly Western, literature before the war and during its first years that they spent relatively little time on re-reading the ancient philosophers and historians, are now taking a greater interest in them than they did for a very long time.

It is the habit of many of China's leaders and high officials to devote a quiet early morning hour and some time at night to serious reading. The Bible plays a surprisingly large role in it with many, but the old sages seem to be getting their full share once more even with those who had given relatively little attention to them since they were young.

This trend is strongly reflected in public speeches which seem to quote the sages to a considerably larger extent than normally. The Chinese tradition of basing criticisms of present-day affairs on quotations from the classics is again in greater evidence in the press, and Government officials in private conversations with Chinese as well as foreign affairs often tell of their latest discovery of interesting parallels to topics of the day in their readings on ancient philosophy and early Chinese history.

Moreover the great aesthetic values of the traditional literature exert a great influence on those who have spent much of their lives on more prosaic Western studies and routine work.

The beauty of the language, the high ideals of the sages and their remoteness from the strain and stress of wartime life provide a pleasing contrast to the ways of the present and the uncertainties and grim problems of the future.

Even many of the younger generation are turning more and more to the classics of which they learned relatively little in the modernized school. The new trend makes it necessary for them once more to be well versed in traditional learning.

They are thus laying the foundation in their own mind for some measure of success of the Government's effort to revive tradition and to direct political thought into the channels of ancient Chinese wisdom.

The masses of the people among whom modernism never really replaced the old ethics are more than ever exhorted in newspaper articles and pamphlets, by speeches and orders and through the "New Life Movement" to follow the precepts of the sages.

—*Christian Science Monitor.*

GENERALISSIMO CHIANG

By TSUI CHI

[M. Tsui Chi, a graduate of Peiping National University, is the author of "A History of Chinese Civilisation" (Gollancz, London) and "Biographer of the Worthies of Kiagsi" (Wanchang). In Peiping he was one of the editors of "The Great Chinese Encyclopædia."]

GENERALISSIMO CHIANG

WE did not discover our national leader, Chiang Kai-shek, before he was discovered by our enemy, Japan, The Japanese have always feared, hated and blamed him. But an enemy's words usually produce the opposite effect from the one intended, and Japan made herself our unpardonable enemy after her occupation of our Manchurian provinces in 1931.

In the pre-war years, therefore, when the diplomats at Tokyo insisted on the removal by China of Chiang Kai-shek as her national leader, the Chinese people inevitably developed a passionate affection for that great man. This affection has since increased and become permanent in our hearts. Had our enemy been wise he would have refrained from abusing a man who, though he disliked, we held dear.

Chiang Kai-shek is a statesman for whom the haughty Japanese dare neither show contempt nor neglect. Although Wang Ching-wei, the appeaser, was "babied" by them, they never honoured him by assailing him with words.

FIRM AS ROCK

Chiang Kai-shek gets his name from a quotation in the Confucian classic, "The Book of Changes." The Chinese take names for their children from old sayings which indicate the child's virtues in the future. Thus Chiang's parents desired for him the virtue "kai shek," that is to say, as "firm as rock." The child, destined to become in the future the leader of four hundred millions, was also given another name, less well known to foreigners, namely, "chungcheng"—"uprightness." The Generalissimo is a man of uprightness, with will-power as firm as a rock.

A friend of Chiang Kai-shek, named Tai, has written an essay "On the Foundation of Chiang Kai-shek's Successes in his Brilliant Career", which gives us some insight into Chiang's character. "We," writes Tai, "who have been friends of Chiang for more than 20 years, have never seen him drink a cup of wine or smoke a cigarette." Tai tells us that Chiang was able to appreciate the delicacy and flavour of tea, wine and tobacco as much as any other person. But he was determined never to be enslaved by the habits of drinking or smoking, and he never touched them.

WORTH HIS WORD

According to Tai, Chiang always kept a diary. He has written it for more than 20 years without a break, even in his busiest or most perilous moments. He writes with great sincerity, recording every meditation and plan. "He conceals his diary from no one. When a friend walks into his room, he can pick up a volume of the diary from the desk and read it freely," writes Tai.

A man with a disciplined mind like Chiang would never allow danger or difficulty to stop him. Because of this quality, according to Tai, Dr. Sun Yat-sen, the founder of the Chinese Republic, had specially picked Chiang from the senior revolutionaries to succeed himself as the leader of the nation, and "entrusted him with the responsibility of the deliverance and reconstruction of the country."

Before and during the war, Japan has frequently waged a "nerve war" on Chiang, but has failed to induce him or force him to make peace terms. The Western merchants all know that when a Chinese tradesman says "Yes," it is as good as a signed contract. When Chiang Kai-shek says to our friends, "I will not conclude a separate peace with Japan," they can trust him not to make such a bargain, no matter what may happen in the world.

A ntional leader of Chiang's disposition cannot allow his officers to be inefficient. In the present life-and-death struggle China cannot afford any priority to considerations of personal comfort or personal security. "The meritorious receive reward; the guilty, punishment" is our golden precept through our long tradition.

"INTELLECTUAL PARENT"

Most of the Chinese high officers have been educated in the Whampoo, or Central, Military College, which was created by Chiang. In our tradition, the students regard their principal as their "intellectual parent" and he in turn regards them as "intellectual children." In spite of this affection, Chiang would never spoil a "child" by violating discipline. China cannot afford it. Discipline alone has saved ill-equipped China from collapse. If Chiang loves his youngsters, he must allow them to die as dutiful soldiers.

In the early years of Whampoo history, a cadet, having received some punishment for a small offence, committed suicide in his dormitory. When Chiang was informed of the matter, he instantly summoned the staff and students together and gave the following commentary: "To commit suicide for nothing is a degenerate act, the meanest of deeds. He who does this shows that he is a man of weak will-power. A strong man would not do it; a revolutionary, never."

To his students, however, he used to quote Dr. Sun Yat-sen's epigram: "He who sees the success of the Revolution has achieved a career. He who does not see it but sacrifices his life for Revolution has achieved a virtue." "I think," the Generalissimo would continue, "one who really works for the bliss of the human race and for the doctrine, can scarcely hope to complete his career in his lifetime."

CHIANG'S PHILOSOPHY

Nor would he himself shrink from making sacrifices, if necessary and justifiable. "Our life," he says, "does not exist in sections, but in continuation. Dr. Sun Yat-sen has died, but we still live. His work will be continued, hence his life has not passed away. Again, if I were to die now, but you, all of you, lived to continue my work, my life would not pass from the world. If you can understand this, you will never fear death." Chiang's perilous life gives even more value to these words.

Many of his Whampoo students have died in battle. Others are high officers in the field in China's struggle against the Japanese invaders. For their services, the nation is grateful. I have read many soldiers' memoirs of the war. A soldier dying in hospital paid homage to the Generalissimo's name. "Fanatical" may be some gentlemen's adjective for these feelings. But we Chinese call them Faith.

CHINA'S GREAT STRATEGIST

By T. S. CHEN

GENERAL Pai Chung-hsi is an outstanding figure in the Government of Free China. He is a member of the Supreme Defence Council and Vice-Chief of the General Staff in charge of war strategy under Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, who consults him in all military matters before any orders are sent to the fighting fronts. He is also Director-in-Chief of military training.

The American Press has often called Pai China's leading strategist. As for the Chinese, they admiringly refer to him as "Siao Chu-ko Liang," after a master strategist of the third century noted for his great ability and prophetic vision.

General Pai is a Mohammedan, and on three occasions he has served as special representative of the Generalissimo on important missions to the north-western provinces, which are largely Mohammedan. The Japanese have made every effort to induce the Mohammedans of North China to enter the camp of the "New Order in East Asia," but through the influence of General Pai, these efforts have proved fruitless.

A SCHOLAR OF REPUTE

Contrary to the popular conception of Chinese "war lords," Pai is not wealthy. He is a self-made man. When he first came to Chungking, he lived in a small, unpretentious residence and used an old Ford Sedan. His car was so battered that he was often held up at the entrance of Government offices because the sentries refused to believe that a high military officer would ride in such a vehicle. But as time went on and his reputation in Chungking grew, he was identified by this same old Ford Sedan.

General Pai does not speak or understand English, but is a Chinese scholar of some reputation, and is an expert in penmanship. He is a profound student of history, both Chinese and foreign. Indeed, his knowledge of international affairs is remarkable in one who has neither been abroad nor studied foreign languages. He is constantly broadening his knowledge and his understanding of the views of others by engaging in conversation with people of all classes.

He is a good listener, but is also a good public speaker. He holds frequent reviews of his troops and at such times likes to deliver a short speech. And he frequently addresses not only his own troops, but also public gatherings and student groups, sometimes speaking for as much as two and a half to three hours or even more. He speaks slowly and enunciates clearly. His words are carefully chosen, and his subject is usually well prepared.

AUSTERE HABITS

General Pai, who is 52, walks with a slight limp, which, however, is barely noticeable. Pai is tall for a Chinese.

Pai neither smokes nor drinks, and he condemns gambling in any form; in his administration of the province of Kwangsi he offered high rewards for information leading to the arrest of Government officials found gambling. When meeting strangers or when engaged in official business, the General has a serious manner, but in talking to those with whom he is well acquainted on matters other than official, he is pleasant and jokes frequently.

General Pai was born in 1891 in a country village near Kweilin, capital of Kwangsi Province. His father, a farmer, died before this fifth of his six sons started on the road to distinction.

As a boy, General Pai attended a school in Kweilin. At the age of 17 he attended a teachers' college. Pai taught in small schools for several years.

RAPID RISE

Without the knowledge of his parents, he subsequently left Kweilin and proceeded to Paotingfu, in North China, to enter the Military Academy there. Just prior to his graduation, he applied to the Government to appoint him to the new province of Sinkiang, thus indicating his love of pioneering and adventure. This was shortly after the Revolution of 1911, and conditions in the north-west were chaotic. The Government felt that his services could be better utilized in his home province of Kwangsi. He was duly given a commission as lieutenant under the provincial Governor, General Lu Yung-ting, in command of the General's bodyguard.

This was a very fine opportunity, since it not only gave him a direct contact with the highest authorities but also influence with the officers and troops, and an intimate knowledge of the intricacies of the political organization of that time. His rise was rapid. He was soon appointed a captain of the Elite Guard.

MEETS Dr. SUN YAT-SEN

This was the period when local war lords wielded great power in China. Pai, meanwhile, had been promoted to the rank of major. While in Canton for treatment of his left leg, which he had broken in a fall during a night engagement against bandits in the mountains, he met Dr. Sun Yat-sen, whose teachings he had been studying. He also for the first time met General Chiang Kai-shek. This was in 1921, when these two leaders were already planning the overthrow of the Northern war lords.

Two years later Pai joined with Li Tsung-ren and Hwang Shao-shung in the overthrow of the administration of Governor Lu of Kwangsi. Li became Commander-in-Chief of the Kwangsi army, Hwang, Vice-Commander and Pai, now a general, became the Chief of Staff.

LED SPEARHEAD OF ATTACK

Just about this time Dr. Sun died in Peking. The new regime which he had set up in Canton, however, continued to function. But it was Pai who protected it from an attack which might well have eliminated it permanently from the stage. General Tang Chi-yao, of Yunan Province, had been invited by Dr. Sun to act as Vice-Premier of the new Government, but had refused. He now endeavoured to march from Yunan through Kwangsi to attack Canton.

His forces advanced in two columns. Under General Pai's direction, the Kwangsi forces, while directing their main attack against one column, sent small bodies of scouts and irregulars to harass the other and prevent a junction of the two. By firing crackers and moving about quickly and continuously, these irregulars created the impression that their main forces were in the neighbourhood and held one enemy column inactive until the other had been destroyed, after which all the Yunan forces were driven out of the province.

This victory not only preserved Kwangsi from conquest and Canton from attack but also established General Pai's reputation as a strategist. The following year he was invited to Canton, and he subsequently participated in the plans for the Northern campaign which swept away the old political system and established a Central Government at Nanking in 1927. During these operations he was Vice-Chief of General Staff and concurrently commander of the Eastern Route Army. From Nanking, he led the spearhead of the attack all the way to Peking.

THREE-POINT PROGRAMME

General Pai was in favour of continuing the invasion into Manchuria against the Mukden forces of Chang Tso-lin. But his enemies and also certain military leaders who were jealous of his growing power and popularity incited General Chiang and others of the Southern group against him, insinuating that he would attempt to seize supreme power. Chiang was even urged to apprehend Pai. Being aware of these developments, Pai escaped by steamer to Shanghai and subsequently to Hong Kong. After living there for two months, he was invited home by the Kwangsi armies. He reached Nanking without a penny.

On his return to Kwangsi, Pai was appointed Vice-Commander-in-Chief under General Li Tsung-ren, and set to work immediately on a programme of rehabilitation and reconstruction in the province. He took as his slogan "Reconstruction in Kwangsi and Rehabilitation for China" and based his policy upon a three-point programme of provincial self-defence, government by the people and economic self-sufficiency. Under his administration, Kwangsi became the model province of China.

INTO THE FOREFRONT AGAIN

For 10 years, Pai did not go to Nanking or take any part in the affairs of the Central Government, though often invited by Generalissimo Chiang, who had discovered that the charges laid against him were fabrications of enemies jealous of his ability and high reputation. However, he had always assured Chiang that in the event of war with Japan, he would come immediately.

On the outbreak of war in 1937, in response to an urgent request from the Generalissimo, General Pai Chung-shi flew to Nanking in a special plane sent for his use. He was met at the airfield by all the leaders of the Central Government, and was welcomed by all ranks of the army. General Pai was in favour of immediate action against the Japanese, and as Vice-Chief of the General Staff he proceeded to Lungwa, Shanghai, to direct operations. When the German Ambassador presented Japan's peace terms through Wang Ching-wei, General Pai was bitterly opposed to any suggestion of negotiations, and demanded complete withdrawal of Japanese troops from Chinese soil as a pre-requisite to any such discussions.

PUT HEART INTO THE NATION

As Vice-Chief of Staff, Pai collaborated with General Li Tsung-ren in the great victory at Taierchwang, which did so much to put heart into the Chinese nation in the early days of the war. Later the Japanese succeeded in cutting the communications behind the Chinese positions. Generals Li and Pai were forced to disperse their troops through the mountains and extricate them in small units through Japanese-held territory. The Generals themselves, after destroying their motor transport, walked for several days and nights through wild territory in order to escape capture.

General Pai was in command during the retreat up the Yangtse, during which he administered a severe repulse to the Japanese forces endeavouring to outflank the Wuhan cities, and saved Hankow for a period of over two months. After the fall of the Wuhan cities, when Generalissimo Chiang retired to Chungking, Pai was appointed in charge of all armies south of the Yangtse, with headquarters in Kweilin. The first great victory at Changsha was achieved under his strategic direction, and during the Japanese advance on Nanning he planned the counter-attack which destroyed the crack Japanese Fifth Division at Kwen-len-kwan.

MILITARY TACTICS

General Pai's military tactics have always been based on careful planning and the use of small and effective forces under proper leadership, rather than on mass attacks, poorly directed and weakly led. His objective is always to do the most damage to the enemy at the least possible cost. He is a man of great determination and tenacity, and once he is convinced of the correctness of his strategy, he will pursue his course with the greatest energy and enterprise, often turning defeat into victory.

His strategy is usually based on surprise and deception. He will frequently retreat in order to draw the enemy into a prepared trap, and then by swift counter-attacks and flanking movements, destroy him. These tactics were exemplified both at Taierchwang and at Changsha.

MAJOR STRATEGY

Pai's major efforts are directed toward conserving China's manpower and material, while at the same time training the new Chinese armies, until the day when China can make a successful counter-offensive. His supreme strategy lies in "trading space for time," and in spreading his forces as widely as possible, to enable China to follow "whittling" tactics both against and behind the enemy lines, avoiding major or decisive engagements wherever possible.

China's great strategist has no personal ambitions, and works only for the salvation of his people from the Japanese oppressor. He is today a loyal supporter of the Generalissimo, and his advice carries a great influence in the counsels of the Central Government at Chungking.

He is not wealthy and requires none of the luxuries or amenities of wealth. He lives simply, works unremittingly and without ostentation, and has earned the love and respect of all classes of the Chinese people.

—Condensed from Asia.

WARTIME FOOD PRODUCTION

CHINA leads the world in total agricultural production. In normal years she holds the first place among all nations in rice, wheat, sweet potatoes, kaoliang, soya beans, millet, barley, peanuts, tea, and silk. She is the greatest agricultural country in the world.

Although China will certainly carry out a huge programme of industrialisation after the war, agriculture will remain the backbone of the national life. There are approximately 60,000,000 farm households in the country out of a total of 80,000,000. That is to say, the farming population constitutes about 75 per cent of the total. It will be a very long time before industry ever can employ nearly as much manpower as agriculture.

Though a leading agricultural country, China does not produce enough food for her own population. In normal years she has to import large quantities of rice, wheat and sugar. In the last three or four years, however, she has imported little food, owing to the coastal blockade and the difficulty of land transportation.

FOOD PROBLEM

China has been not unsuccessful in the solution of the food problem in wartime. Although the food supply has by no means been abundant, and although millions of refugees and of residents in war areas have undergone hunger and starvation, the country as a whole has fared as well as one can expect.

As to the post-war food problem, China will have to introduce new methods of farming, to cultivate new areas of land, and greatly to increase the supply of meat and fish, in order to feed the 450,000,000 population properly. At present farms are small and families are large. Consequently, farm incomes are almost entirely devoted to the maintenance of the bare existence of families.

Farmers themselves have no surplus capital and cannot afford to risk experimentation of any kind. It seems necessary that village communities and the various grades of government would have to plan and work together in order to increase total agricultural production.

FARM LAND

The land area of China is very large. In her 28 provinces (not including Mongolia and Tibet) she possesses 12,274,362,240 mou of land (one mou is equal to one-sixth of an acre). Of this, 5,494,174,770 mou belong to the 18 provinces in China Proper, and 6,780,187,470 mou belong to the 10 frontier provinces.

Of this vast area of land, only about 14 per cent is under cultivation. The total area of farm land is estimated to be approximately 1,600,000,000 mou. The farm land per capita is only about 3;5 mou.

The war has aggravated the food situation in manifold ways. In the first place, the blockade has practically stopped the importation of foodstuffs. Second, the invading armies have not only lived on the good earth, but have also destroyed or burned large quantities of the fruit thereof. Third, on the fluid war fronts and areas much farm land has to lie waste. Finally, the military service has drawn heavily upon farm labour. All these have made the food situation in China more serious than it was in the pre-war normal years.

The year 1937, when the war began, was a lean year in food production. The years 1938 and 1939 fortunately were fat years. Again 1940 and 1941 were poor years, while 1942 was a good year.

The total land under cultivation in 15 provinces, Shensi, Kansu, Ninghsia, Chinghai, Honan, Hupeh, Szechuan, Yunnan, Kweichow, Hunan, Kiangsi, Chekiang, Fukien, Kwantung and Kwangsi, is estimated to be 580,000,000 mou. The average food production is about 1,500,000,000 piculs per year.

The year 1940 was a relatively lean year. Owing to the spring drought, the summer crops of 1940 were not so plentiful as those of 1938 and 1939. The yield of rice fell considerably, but wheat and potatoes registered a slight increase. The food situation was most serious in the latter part of 1940.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry has adopted various measures to increase the production of food. These measures include increase of acreage, increase of rice production by reducing the acreage of glutinous rice which ordinarily goes to wine making, increase of wheat production by winter ploughing, use of improved seeds, use of better fertilizers, reclamation of waste land, development of irrigation, control of insects and diseases, and protection of domestic animals.

The Farmers Bank of China, a Government institution, has been partly responsible for the maintenance and improvement of the agricultural life in China. It has extended credits to farmers in more than 800 counties. As on November 1942, the loans outstanding amounted to 560,000,000 yuan. Of this sum, about 80 per cent was directly used for the increase of agricultural production, and 20 per cent for irrigation, extension and reclamation projects.

—Contemporary China.

JAPANESE PLANS MISCARRY

THE Japanese interpret their actions in China and elsewhere during the past six years in a way which is surprising to those unacquainted with the religion of Japan.

The Japanese have been insistent on the disinterested nature of their " mission " to China. From the beginning of their invasion they have proclaimed to an incredulous world that they had come to China solely for the good of the Chinese people, to help them put their country in order and to assist them in the task of " reconstruction."

This task was, and of course still is, being efficiently performed by the Government of Chiang Kai-shek. Japan's policy in China, her war aims, her methods of exploiting her conquests have all changed repeatedly, but the quantity innocent Japanese have steadily adhered to the theory of a heavenly, civilizing mission.

IMAGINARY PICTURE

To back up one organized lie with another, they declare that their presence was welcomed by the mass of the Chinese people. They have no difficulty in persuading themselves that this is so, in spite of the massacres and other atrocities perpetrated by their troops at Nanking, in spite of the bombing of undefended towns, and the burning of innumerable villages. As proof of their popularity in China, the Japanese point to the various puppet governments set up by their army, which they maintain are co-operating with them in the happiest way.

This picture is wholly imaginary. It begins and ends in the minds of Japanese propagandists. It is true that the Japanese have been able to find a certain number of Chinese officials, usually of the type belonging to the old Manchu regime, prepared to work under them, just as the Germans have usually managed to find individuals in the countries they occupy who will likewise play their game.

But it does not mean that the people have given up the struggle. The Chinese are no more co-operating with the Japanese in the areas they have invaded than the French, the Dutch, the Czechs or the Norwegians are co-operating with the Germans.

PASSIVE OBSTRUCTION

The Japanese technique is to set up puppet Chinese administrations in the districts which their troops have occupied. These governments are stiffened by Japanese military advisers and Japanese garrisons. But it is one thing to coerce a Chinese to take office in a puppet government, and quite another to make him govern.

The Chinese who is prevented from taking an active part in resistance from lack of arms may serve his country quite as effectively by blocking Japanese development of occupied territory. By a consistent policy of passive obstruction, the Chinese can make it impossible to get anything done. Plans miscarry, orders do not get carried out; and government becomes stultified.

To make matters worse, the Japanese are so suspicious of their Chinese colleagues that they reject any attempt by them to initiate or criticize a measure. Resignations, or rather dismissals, are frequent, and so the standard of Chinese officials is steadily deteriorating. In the end the Japanese are driven by exasperation to take over the administration altogether, and the Government consequently loses any claim to represent the Chinese.

QUISLING WANG

As an example, the position of Wang Ching going at Nanking is not a happy one. Though nominally the head of the so-called Central Government of China, he is in fact completely powerless. When his *de jure* government —*de jure* according to Japanese law alone—was officially recognized, celebrations were held and the event was played up in the Japanese press, but actually Wang had no voice in the government of his country.

The other local puppet governments paid him a certain amount of lip service and adopted his flag, but beyond that they refused him any kind of allegiance. He was unable to collect any funds from them, and had no say whatever in local administration or the appointment of officials.

Little is heard of him today. He sits silent and inactive at Nanking, nursing his grievances, except when he is prodded by his masters into making an occasional speech pointing to the warm friendship existing between the two countries.

HATRED DEEPENS

The establishment of the Greater East Asia Ministry has destroyed the last vestiges of self-government in Occupied China. If co-operation between the Japanese and the puppet Chinese officials is superficial, co-operation between the Japanese and the Chinese population in occupied districts does not exist at all.

The Chinese, it is true, are not in a position to resist or drive out the invaders except in the guerilla areas where they can be supplied with arms. They are forced to work for the Japanese and sell them their produce, because the alternative is starvation. But under this outward acceptance of alien rule there is a deep and mounting hatred.

Whenever Chinese villagers have the chance, they help the guerillas by cutting communications, blocking roads, blowing up bridges, and isolating and destroying groups of Japanese. In many parts of the country the Japanese dare not go more than a few miles away from the shelter of a garrison town.

NURSING REVENGE

The Chinese, too, are becoming less dependent on Japanese goods as the industrial co-operatives are spreading even to occupied regions and are able to produce enough consumers' goods to make the Chinese self-sufficient. This means that the Japanese plan of turning China into a huge market for cheap Japanese goods will fail.

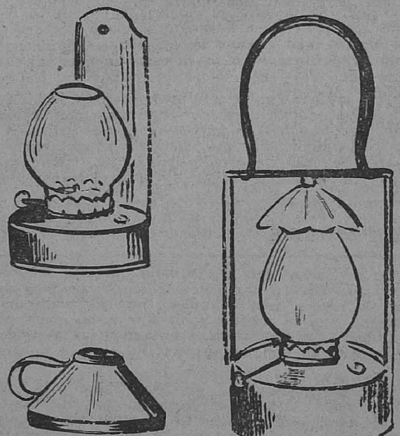
Co-operation is something which cannot be enforced by arms. The Japanese have to govern as military commanders of an invading army, by martial law or not at all. They would prefer to govern through docile Chinese governments, since this would free large numbers of their troops—at present bogged down in North, Central and South China—when they might be used against Chungking or in other parts of the Pacific war zone.

After six years of war the Japanese are not nearer to conquering China. The guerillas, the industrial co-operatives, the politely sardonic Chinese officials, the people who silently await their chance for revenge, all are helping to bring defeat nearer for the Japanese.

And, when that defeat comes, it will be final and lasting.

—" *Montreal Daily Star.*"

RAMA DEEPA



Patent No. 29019 of 1942.

The most economical lighting device ever discovered. These three cheap varieties are manufactured for the National War Front, Madras.

Rama Deepa offers a lucrative subsidiary occupation to the agriculturist during the slack season.

If a poor family collects margosa seeds and extracts 12 lb., i.e., 4 viss of oil, its annual lighting requirements will be completely satisfied.

The lamps are available with the District Organizers.

THE BURMA ROAD TO JAPAN

By SIMON HARCOURT-SMITH

THE Japanese will not hold the opinion much longer that warmongering is a profitable affair. The decisions taken recently at Washington suggest that before long the war will come direct to the crowded valleys of Japan.

In the Chinese provinces of Chekiang and Shantung are innumerable stretches of upland and countless pastures which before the round of another year will be swept by the R.A.F.—off to bomb Tokyo and Osaka. I say R.A.F. advisedly. For this new offensive now being planned against Japan must be predominantly a British affair.

There is far too easy an assumption among us that the Far Eastern war is an American headache. Japanese aggression has done much more harm to us than it could ever do to America. We shall never again count for much in the world unless we end the Japanese tyranny over Asia. The new Japanese empire stretches in an embattled line of islands from Kuriles down to New Guinea. At either extremity of this line—in the South Seas and among the northern fogs—Americans are doing prodigies.

ATTACK ON JAP HOMELAND

But they cannot be everywhere at once. In the centre of the line lies the most profitable point for attack—the Japanese islands themselves. And air assault on them from China must be our responsibility. That assault, unfortunately, cannot begin tomorrow. It is not enough merely to establish bomber aerodromes on Chinese soil within reach of Tokyo. We must hold them too.

And this is impossible without breaking Japan's military grip on China. We cannot expect the Chinese to do this unaided. Inevitably they are feeling the effects of being cut off from their principal sources of supply. The task before us is formidable, but in the light of the Eighth Army's march from El Alamein to Tunis, it is not insuperable.

A preliminary to any sustained bombing of Japan from Chinese soil must be the reconquest of Burma and the entry of the British army into China to join in an offensive down the Yangtse valley. This is not an over-ambitious plan, and the fall of Burma would probably reduce Indo-China at the same time.

We should then possess as supply routes into China not only the Burma Road—never yet used to its full capacity—but also the French railway from Tonking to Kunming. Moreover the capture of Burma and Indo-China should isolate and dismay the Japanese forces in Siam and Malaya. Singapore would become ours again, and Japan's naval domination of the China Seas would be at an end. Much of the oil, concrete, spare parts and cumbersome machinery needed for modern aerodromes would then be brought up by sea. Allied forces would probably move against Formosa island, within easy flying range of Japan and conveniently endowed with excellent aerodromes by the Japanese.

GOOD CHANCE

All this will take time. But, given a successful campaign in Burma after this year's monsoon, there is a good chance of our heavy bombers being within range of Tokyo by next spring. Much of course depends upon the number and quality of planes that can be spared from the German war. For the bombing of Japan we need machines at least as heavy as Lancasters—and Lancasters in great strength. Lieutenant General Sir Douglas Brownrigg writes in the *Evening News* that the Allies must recapture Burma and the coast of China before they can bomb their way into Japan. Drawing lessons from the operations in North Africa and the Mediterranean, he says: "We are led to the inevitable conclusion that without the use of the coast of China we cannot hope to invade Japan, and the problem is reduced to one of seeing how best to secure use of China's coastal provinces."

The best way to the coast of China is through Burma and the Burma Road—and other trails now being constructed. This route avoids shore-based aircraft which the Japanese have by now most certainly installed at or near every port in their possession. But, in order to open the Burma Road, Burma itself must be retaken, and that can be done only by an amphibious operation against Rangoon. This will be difficult—but not more difficult than attempts to retake the islands of the South-Western Pacific in reverse order to that in which the Japanese seized them.

AIR SUPERIORITY

Once Rangoon is retaken, our superiority in the air can make the advance up the Irrawady and along the railway running parallel to it a quicker operation than the advance to Baghdad in 1915–17—to which operation it will bear many points of resemblance.

It will be no easy task; but with all the difficulties I feel sure that the Burma and China way to the heart of Japan will be a better one than that across the seas of the South-Western Pacific, because it will enable us to bomb our way in—a means which would be denied us by the sea route. If strategic bombing around the clock is found to be the way to open the door into Germany and Italy, it seems to me obvious that this method can also be the key into Japan. If that is so, the coast of China is essential to the United Nations—both as an advance base and as a base from which the strategic air forces of the United Nations can work. And—all things considered—the way to the coast of China can be reached more easily by the land route through Burma than by the sea route from Australia, New Guinea, the Philippines and Guam.

There is no easy way into Japan. Let that be crystal clear from the start. All I suggest is that the land route offers fewer difficulties than the sea route. Incidentally it has the added advantage of being the quickest way of bringing relief to harassed China—that nation which has been fighting for freedom two years longer than any other country and to-day enters its seventh year of war. —*The Daily Herald.*

COOKS LEARN TO SHOOT

This is the story of the two cooks, the water-carrier and the sweeper. They are followers in an R.I.A.S.C. unit stationed in the jungle on the Burma border—enlisted men doing lowly jobs who do not fight.

Three of them Ram Krishan, the water-carrier, Ram Gopal and Bachana, the cooks, are from the Punjab where some of India's finest fighting men come from. The fourth, Tilkul the sweeper, comes from Patiala.

Every Sunday their unit, which consists mainly of Madrasis has rifle practice, but the four followers cannot take part in it as they are non-combatants. This, however, did not suit the men from the fighting provinces.

They did not like to be presumptuous and ask the officer sahib if they could take part in the rifle practice, but they thought up a little scheme among themselves.

The company were paraded as usual for rifle firing one Sunday morning and, after several hours, the last four men came forward to fire. The officer suddenly noticed that the four men who stepped forward so eagerly were the four followers. They explained that they wanted to fire like every one else, but they did not like to ask and thought they could slip in unnoticed.

The officer ordered that they should be given special instruction by a havildar on how to handle a rifle. A few hours later they were given their first chance to fire and they shaped very well—Bachana, the Punjabi cook, got a bullseye.

Now they parade regularly every Sunday with the rest of the troops for firing practice. Their targets with their hits registered on them are their most precious possessions and they are among the smartest men on parade.

A WARTIME EXPERIMENT IN DEMOCRACY

THE People's Political Council is a unique organ in the Chinese body politic during this period of war. It is a wartime experiment in practical democracy. The first Council came into being in July 1938, the second in March 1941, and the third—the latest—in October 1942.

As a wartime experiment the Council has worked remarkably well. On the one hand, the Government has received and has carried out many wartime measures proposed by the Council. On the other hand, the people have found in the Council a channel through which public wishes and demands have crystallized into concrete national policies.

In addition to the National People's Political Council, there have been established provincial and municipal people's political councils in all the provinces and municipalities excepting those in Manchuria, and county (hsien) people's political councils in most of the counties not under Japanese occupation.

ADVISORY AND SUPERVISORY BODY

The People's Political Council has been variously characterized as "a democratic forum of public opinion" and as "a wartime national parliament." Neither term, however, is quite accurate. The Council is more than a forum, for it has the right to deliberate on national policies before the Government may put them into effect. It is less than a parliament, for the resolutions it passes do not automatically become laws or statutes.

The Council is rather an advisory and supervisory organ. It exercises the supervisory power when it reviews the periodic reports of the Government and interpellates the members thereof.

It will be recalled that in the fall of 1937 China was to have a popular election of the National Congress, which was to produce the Five-Power Constitutional Government as envisaged by Dr. Sun Yat-sen, Father of the Chinese Republic. The outbreak of the war made the national election impossible and postponed the formal inauguration of the "Constitutional Period."

THE FIRST COUNCIL

In March 1938, the Kuomintang National Convention resolved that "at this juncture of national emergency a People's Political Council be convened" in order to consolidate all national forces and to guarantee free discussion of and full deliberation on national policies. Accordingly, in July 1938, the first Council came into being.

The People's Political Council is, therefore, a wartime semi-legislative assembly, less than a parliament, but more than a forum, a transitional advisory and supervisory organ in the Chinese body politic, pending the formal election of the National Congress.

Specifically, the functions of the Council are as follows: to receive and review the reports of the Government; to interpellate the members of the Government; to deliberate on measures proposed by the Government; to make proposals to the Government: to deliberate on vital domestic and foreign policies which the Government, during the period of war, shall submit to the Council before putting them into effect: and to pass resolutions which, after the approval of the Supreme National Defence Council, shall be formulated into laws or statutes.

MEMBERSHIP

There were 200 members in the first Council and 240 members in the second and the third Council each.

Of the 200 members in the first Council, 88 (Group A) were nominated by provincial and municipal Governments, six (Group B) by the Commission on Mongolian and Tibetan Affairs (four to represent Mongolia and two Tibet), six (Group C) by the Commission on Overseas Chinese Affairs, and 100 (Group D) by cultural and economic institutions. They were finally appointed by the Supreme National Defence Council.

Although they were thus technically Government "appointees"—owing to the fact that a popular election machinery could not have been initiated and put into operation during the spring months of 1938—they represented all the major and minor parties, as well as the provinces and professions.

COMPOSITION

The first Council was composed of men and women of high intellectual calibre and rich administrative experience. It was a Council more of experts than of popular political leaders. It is significant that out of 200 councillors 66 came from cultural institutions while only 46 were active members of political parties. No fewer than 19 were university presidents and 27 were professors. A typical councillor was a man of 46, who had been active in social and political life for about 15 years and had distinguished himsef on the national scene in a certain field. Of 200 members 10 were women.

The composition of the second Council was slightly different from the first. Of 240 councillors in the second Council, 90 (Group A) were "electees" of the provincial and municipal people's political councils, instead of "appointees" of the Supreme National Defence Council; six of the Group B and six of the Group C were nominated and appointed as they were in the first Council; 138 of the Group D were elected by leading cultural and economic institutions.

In the present third Council 164 councillors, out of a total of 240, were elected directly by the provincial and municipal people's political councils (which served as electoral colleges). This represented a further democratization of the Council. As time goes on the Council may become an entirely elected body.

DEMOCRATIC TREND

The experience in practical democracy, thus far gained, has been highly encouraging. It is indicative of the democratic trend in the political evolution of the Chinese body politic. As soon as the war is over, the Council itself may become the supreme legislative body, or a new Congress may be organized. In any case there will be a legislative body that is popularly elected.

When it meets the Council usually first elects a Presidium consisting of five persons.

In addition to the Presidium, the Council elects five committees: Committee on National Defence, Committee on Foreign Affairs, Committee on Domestic Affairs, Committee on Economic and Financial Affairs and Committee on Education and Culture. Each councillor is assigned to one of these committees.

Before a session of the Council adjourns it elects a Resident or Standing Committee, of 15 to 25 members, which serves as an advisory and supervisory organ during the recess of the Council.

—"*Contemporary China.*"

WAR DOGS ON BURMA FRONT

They are letting loose the dogs of war on the Eastern Front and they eat chappatties, corned beef and rice.

These war dogs go out with patrols deep into Jap-occupied territory and carry back messages. They are taught to point towards any suspicious noise that may mean there is an enemy. They also act as sentries.

The dogs, like most soldiers, are recruited from civilian life and get weeks of training for their job in India. Trained with them at the same time are the dog-handlers, who look after them when they go into action.

When the dogs are fully trained, they are sent to forward units. Thoroughbred dogs are not so useful on the job as mongrels. The dogs I saw at an outpost near the Jap lines were Sam, who was nearly a Labrador and Ted, whose ancestry was a little vague, but who might have been a retriever. They had just come back from a trip round the Jap lines.

They are supposed to get fresh meat, but as this is rare in the front line, they were making do with a bowl of corned beef and rice at which they wagged their tails in hearty approval.

Armoured Carriers and Cars which were purchased out of the contributions from the Districts to His Excellency the Governor's War Fund

MODERNIZING AGRICULTURE

By GUENTHER STEIN

ONE of the world's most fascinating and most urgent post-war tasks will be the modern improvement of China's 40-centuries-old agriculture.

Agriculturists who know what they are talking about are of the opinion that the production of China's farmers can be doubled easily if modern methods are applied to fields and wasteland alike without hindrances from antiquated conditions of land ownership, village administration, agricultural finance and local commerce.

The Chinese Government has done much to investigate the tremendous possibilities of raising a poverty-ridden population of probably more than 500,000,000 people to real prosperity and to pave the way for large-scale practical reform work after the war. But has it also tried to deal with the less romantic and more vital task of increasing agricultural production within inevitably narrow limits while the war and its worst consequence—Free China's isolation from the outside world—are continuing?

BEST EDUCATIONAL PRODUCT

In these practical efforts as well as in its planning, the Government is being helped by a widely scattered group of modern trained agricultural scientists and economists. Wherever I met any of those Chinese who either have studied and worked in the United States and other foreign countries or are pupils of American, Canadian, or English missionary agriculturists at old-established Chinese universities, I invariably was impressed with the competence, integrity, devotion, and modesty of those men who, together with a certain type of modern engineer, probably are the best product of China's educational contact with the Western World.

These men are few, the funds at their disposal are relatively small and most of them have to fight against great odds of many kinds. But what has been accomplished in Chinese agriculture during the war is due mainly to those few hundred people and their self-sacrificing enthusiasm for the details of their work.

Not only in Chengtu, whose universities and research and experimental institutions are the working centre of agricultural science in China to-day, but in numerous other places these men quietly have studied the soil and climate and plants of most agricultural areas. They have developed innumerable varieties of new seeds of rice and wheat and dozens of other plants which will bear richer crops and withstand the rigours of specific local climatic and soil conditions better than the seeds traditionally used.

MODERN METHODS DEVISED

They have devised modern methods of cultivation. They have carried on patient and therefore successful educational work among the most conservative of farmers. They have courageously faced reactionary landlords and old-fashioned local officials and they have not been discouraged by the disproportion between the needs of the country and their necessarily limited success nor by their own poor living conditions. Improved rice seeds have been applied in various localities of 13 provinces on almost 400,000 acres with the result that an additional quantity of 40,000 tons of rice was produced, or about 15 to 20 per cent more than normally.

Similar results have been achieved on a moderate scale with other foodstuffs, cotton, and oil-seed and in practically every other branch of agriculture. Modern insect-control measures have been introduced in a number of localities also with the result of a considerable local increase in production.

The six per cent rise of the total agricultural acreage in Free China in the average of the years from 1940 to 1942 as compared with that of the years from 1931 to 1937, although due mainly to rising prices, in some part has been made possible by the co-operation of these men whose advice and practical help to the farmers enabled many of them to plant remunerative spring crops before the main fall crops on fields which normally had been cropped once a year only for the latter.

EXPANSION OF ACREAGE

To another part, this expansion of acreage is the consequence of scattered irrigation work that has been carried out either in continuation of the activities of international famine relief organs in China or in execution of new schemes devised by foreign-trained Chinese irrigation engineers. The total area of land that has been improved by irrigation for the first time made usable for growing crops since the war began in 1937 is about 800,000 acres.

The only technical improvements which so far have not gone beyond the experimental stage because of the shortage of the necessary materials in consequence of the war are those relating to agricultural implements, and especially to the introduction of chemical fertilizers. But for these, as for all the other necessary measures whose combination one day may easily double China's agricultural yield, blue-prints are being worked out for the post-war plan.

The Government-owned Farmers Bank, apart from doing whatever it can within its restricted means for agricultural promotion work of a technical kind, during the last two years, has endeavoured to lay a foundation for the proper fulfilment of the peasant's most urgent and most important demands—finance at reasonable rates. The Chinese farmer always has been debt-ridden and the interest rates that have been charged to him through the centuries have been proverbially high.

MORE MODERN SYSTEM

The Farmers Bank, therefore, has established a more modern system of granting loans for protective purposes to cultivators which is to prevent to the greatest possible extent misappropriation by those in the rural communities on whom the individual farmers are economically dependent. The Bank and other Government institutions are for this purpose working largely through agricultural co-operative societies whose number has greatly increased during the year.

The co-operatives still are suffering from characteristics that are impeding their tasks but are being improved gradually by whatever measure of supervision can be enforced in tens of thousands of small villages where vested interests naturally are paramount. The total amount of rural loans of the Farmers Bank and other Government institutions now is above $25,000,000 in American money. However small the amount may be, these loans, which are cheaper than any other, are gaining importance steadily and, according to a recent investigation, represent six per cent of all the money which the farmers in selected communities of 15 provinces took up last year as against a mere two per cent in 1938. Loans granted by co-operatives are of considerable magnitude now, being 34 per cent of the total compared with 17 per cent in 1938.

But the loans of private banks, which mostly are less advantageous to the farmers, also have increased from eight to 19 per cent of the total. Pawn shops, local firms, and individual money-lenders, which as a rule charge by far the highest interest rates and stipulate the most onerous conditions, still contributed 39 per cent of all loans taken up by the farmers in 1942. But they provided 70 per cent of the total in 1938. The National Agricultural Research Bureau further reports that the highest monthly interest rates that had to be paid in 1942 was still between 12 and 20 per cent, while the average of what is described as "ordinary" interest rates was reduced slightly from 2·1 per cent in 1938 to 2 per cent a month in 1942.

LAND TENANCY

An even more important and elementary problem than loans at reasonable rates is that of land tenancy. The National Agricultural Research Bureau reported some time ago that 37 per cent of all Chinese farmers are independent in the sense that they own the land they till, while the others are tenants of all or most of the land they work. But the number of owner farmers has not, apparently, been very considerably reduced in consequence of economic developments during the war.

It is considered impossible while the war lasts to attempt anything like a thorough-going land reform in accordance with Dr. Sun Yat-sen's promise to make every Chinese farmer the owner of the land he tills. However, this promise has by no means been forgotten by the villagers, and ways of gradually carrying it into effect after the war are being considered by the Government, together with plans for the reduction of land rents.

The newspapers and magazines in recent months have given much attention to the tenancy and rent problems, and the social measures in favour of the farmers laid down by Dr. Sun as the most essential guiding principle for the social and economic policies of the Kuomintang Party are being quoted more frequently than for a long time in the hope that they may be carried out when victory is won.

—*Cristian Science Monitor.*

BLOCKADE

By A. J. McWHINNIE

[*Modern warships and methods of war have made virtually impossible the maintenance of a blockade in the sense in which that word, defined in 1556, is accepted in international law. It implies a close watch of the coasts and approaches to the ports, the prohibition of entry and exit of all ships. Up to the Armistice of the last war and even after, the Government department which dealt with the control of German seaborne trade was called the Ministry of Blockade. In this war the word has been altogether abandoned and the main control is vested in the Ministry of Economic Warfare. The author, in the following article, graphically describes the transition from the old system of blockade to the new one of seeking to control the enemy seaborne trade and the supply line from the base to the Fighting Front.*]

A good old English weapon for dealing with tyrants and aggressors in Europe is blockade. It's a weapon which has served us well through the centuries, and is serving us well to-day.

The fundamental principle of blockade is that you must have a strong and powerful navy. With naval strength you command the seas. When you command the seas, you maintain the use of the seas for your own ships, and at the same time, you deny the use of the seas to the enemy.

That same strategy is being followed to-day as it was followed by Nelson. Of course, blockading tactics have changed with the staggering developments in ships, guns, communications and aeroplanes. Nelson sat outside Napoleon's harbour at Toulon for two-and-a-half years. There were no bombers roaring at him from the skies. There were no motor-torpedo boats racing towards him at nearly a mile a minute. There were no mines lurking around him. And because his sails needed only the wind, there was no need to study refuelling needs.

Nelson fought in the 2,000 ton flagship, *Victory*, at five knots. To-day's mighty battleships are monsters of 35,000 tons capable of speeds over thirty knots. Nelson's guns had a range of three hundred yards. To-day's big guns are a shell, the weight of a motor-car, a distance of twenty miles.

BLOCKADE FROM A DISTANCE

But, while we don't sit outside harbours, we still blockade. We blockade from a distance.

And, even though Nelson sat outside Toulon like a cat waiting expectantly at a mousehole, he could not guarantee that not a single enemy ship would come out from her lair. Sometimes, in fact, a French ship did come out—given the right weather. Nelson joked about it: he reported that occasionally one of Napoleon's ships had been out for what the British Admiral called "capers." "Some day," said Nelson in one report, "we shall lay salt on their tails."

And that is just what we are doing to our enemies to-day. But the salt is in the form of bombs weighing thousands of pounds, shells from big guns, and deadly torpedoes.

Not only are we blockading Germany in 1943, but we are trying to extend the blockade to Japan—a much more difficult job. Japan, after her flying start, is now worried about the increasing blockade against her life-line. Japanese forces are widely scattered over temporarily conquered islands in the Pacific and need constant supplies and possibly reinforcements. Allied warships, submarines, bombers and long-range reconnaissance planes are patrolling the Pacific supply routes to prevent Japanese supplies getting through to the places they are needed most.

That is the blockade coming into play, but in Germany's case, the blockade has been tight from the start; only on two or three occasions during the past year have German warships lurking in Norwegian fiords pushed their noses out towards the open sea. On each of those occasions, there has been a big Allied convoy passing German territory. With the convoy there has always been a naval escort. On each occasion the German warships have been beaten back to their bases and the convoy has steamed on. That is maintaining the use of the seas for your own ships and *denying* the use of the seas to the enemy. The blockade again!

Then look at the case of the Mediterranean. Rommel's forces were beaten back from Egypt by British forces which had to be transported 12,000 miles by sea from England to Alexandria. Yet Rommel's supplies had only to be carried a couple of hundred miles. He couldn't get through the blockade all the men and supplies he needed to fight men brought 12,000 miles by sea.

Just for a second put yourself in the place of Hitler staring at a map inside his headquarters. He, the man who, during the Battle of Britain said, that because of air-power there were no longer any islands, finds himself to-day standing on the biggest island of all. He sees four-fifths of his continent surrounded by our sea-power. Down his 2,000 miles coastline, there is a naval might welded with air-power watching him—all the way from the North Cape down to Gibraltar. He sees his coastal convoys, trying to ease the strain on his bombed railways, pounced on as they creep down the coast—pounced on by submarines, bombers, destroyers and mile-a-minute motor-torpedo boats. That again is the blockade.

Hitler looks at the map again. He has ships at the south of France, in the Mediterranean. But both ends of the Mediterranean are closed against him by the British Navy operating from those great naval bases of Gibraltar and Alexandria.

It galls Hitler to realize that at any moment of any day, there are nearly 3,000 British freighters out on the high seas carrying raw materials and munitions across the world to wherever they are needed. Every day there are never fewer than 600 British warships out on the oceans, guarding 85,000 miles of ocean routes. They are part of the Big Blockade.

Hitler looks east on the map. Above all he wants rubber from his Japanese partners. He knows that Japan urgently needs machine tools, chemicals and manufactured goods which he could supply in exchange for cargoes of rubber. He must, at all costs, try to sneak an odd ship or two through the blockade.

His crisis decision to put more blockade-runners to sea was forced on him by the new developments in North Africa. With French Africa now on the side of the Allies, Hitler has lost a valuable source of raw materials. He searches the map for an alternative supply. The main alternative can only be Japan.

BLOCKADE-RUNNERS

If he had effective sea-power he could send out great convoys around the world, like we do; but he hasn't. His only chance is to send out his few blockade-runners as single ships which, because they are alone, will only be a speck on the vastness of the oceans. So Hitler takes the chance. Those specks on the ocean have to be found. They have to be found somewhere, in 60,000,000 square miles of water, between the Bay of Biscay and the Pacific. So we must get out of our heads the idea that oceans are sort of large ponds. And don't *say*—as I've heard some cranks say when there is news of a blockade-runner—"What's the Navy doing?"

But so powerful is the big blockade that out of 60,000,000 square miles of ocean no fewer than four blockade-runners have been intercepted and "dealt with" in one month recently.

Now let us see what kind of ships Hitler runs through our gauntlet from one side of the world to the other. Official announcements about the four which we caught recently in our naval trap give us the answer.

The first was caught in the Indian Ocean—an 8,000-tonner not far from Australia. She scuttled herself when intercepted, and her crew of seventy-eight were taken prisoner. Little more than a fortnight later, the British Admiralty announced that a 5,000-ton ship attempting to run the blockade had been intercepted in the Atlantic.

Soon after that a third blockade-runner had been stopped also in the Atlantic—a ship of about 10,000 tons.

But the fourth was the most exciting blockade story of all. She was a large ship heavily laden with raw materials for Hitler. She was sighted by British aircraft in the Atlantic. At the controls of a Willington aircraft of coastal command, was a young Australian pilot Plying Officer K. C. Beaton of Adelaide. He raced off to the cruiser Scylla, guided her to the blockade-runner. And after a short, sharp fight, the enemy ship paid the full penalty.

That news must have hurt Hitler. That blockade-runner was on the very last lap of her long, lonely, hazardous voyage. She was inwardbound, her holds crammed with the raw materials. Hitler needs most. Another few days and her officers and men would have been safely in the Reich, being acclaimed as heroes.

They had followed all the cunning detours they could think of to keep them away from the heavily patrolled trade routes. They had taken the long *evasive* route to the east to avoid the Allied blockaders on the sea, in the air, and under the sea. They were actually almost within sight of home. But the trap was still set. And the blockade-runner ran into its steel jaws. It was all over in a few minutes. A passage of months, a Cargo worth millions to Hitler in his need. It was all wasted. *That* is the blockade.

There are two possible ways the blockade-runners between Germany and Japan can take. They can steam down the Atlantic; down between the bulge of Africa and the South American coast, round the Cape of Good Hope far from land, and up into and across the Indian Ocean to the Dutch East Indies as their first stop. Or there is the passage—the perilous passage—down the Atlantic, round Cape Horn, entering the Pacific from the east. From the fact that one of the blockade runners was caught in the Indian Ocean, it looks as though that was the chosen route.

I am often asked whether these blockade-runners made the whole trip without help—whether they can do the passage with its long detours without refuelling. Well, given a good modern oil-burning freighter or motor-ship fitted with extra fuel tanks, it is possible that Germany has ships able to do the trip in one lap.

But, although there is no information available, my own belief is that with Hitler's new interest in the sea, he has probably put a few supply ships and tankers out on the vast oceans ready to help blockade-runners. That is only my own opinion. But it would not surprise me to hear of a supply ship or two being caught by our oceanic sea and air patrols.

Hitler will analyse the reports from the few blockade-runners that got through. He wants to use them not only for prestige, not only to bring him raw materials, he wants to use them for testing the danger spots at sea.

He wants to divert attention from his land reverses. He wants to divert attention from the fact that the U-boats—menace though they are—have failed to stop big troop convoys.

He wants to see whether, when forced to it, his big idle warships would stand much chance acting as individual raiders out on the high seas. After all, that is what they were built for.

It means this. The sea war is starting to get on the surface. And the blockade is being tightened on all oceans.— *A recent B.B.C. talk.*

JAP MULE CHANGES SIDES

Meet Tojo the Mule. He belonged to the Japs until a few weeks ago, but now he is the mascot of a unit in a forward area on the Chin hills front.

Recently they had a skirmish with the Japs in which the enemy lost a large number of casualties and withdrew. Next day one of the patrols from the unit having a look at the ground, found Tojo, very ruffled and bruised, grazing on some jungle grass. All round were scattered boxes containing Jap ammunition and a Jap soldier's cap.

The only haress he had was a rope round his neck. During the fight he must have bolted and his Jap muleteer decided to abandon both Tojo and his cap. Tojo was rounded up and brought back to our lines.

He was very hungry, but was used only to Jap rations. He had lived on paddy and would not eat bran. But after a time hunger overcame him and he started to nibble a little bran. Now he is fit and very docile and is being used for carrying supplies to troops fighting his former masters. He is also very fond of bran.

To

THE DIRECTOR OF WAR PUBLICITY,
"VICTORY HOUSE,"
Madras.

PANRUTI,
SOUTH ARCOT,
6th July 1943.

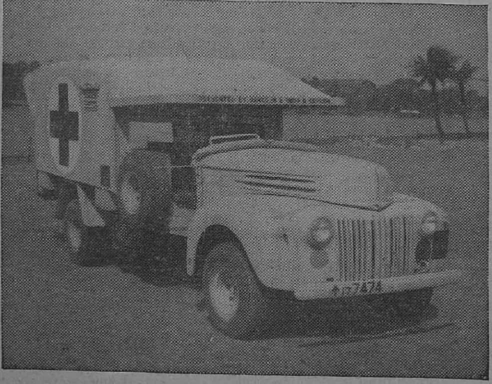
DENMARK—THE FIGHT GOES ON!

SIR,

Conditions in Denmark are becoming more and more difficult as patriotic Danes within and outside the country join the fight against the arch-enemy.

This small, once peaceful, country has become a "criminal State" as may be seen from the fact that the pre-war police-force consisting of some 3,000 men, now number 22,000 regular and anti-sabotage police; this besides the Gestapo.

As the fight goes on in Denmark, so have Danes in the free world rallied round the allied cause. In 16 countries Free Danes are united in the fight for the liberation of our country. *For more than a thousand years every generation has been in arms against Germany, so also this generation.*



In 1942 Free Danes presented a Squadron of Spitfires to the Royal Air Force, this is now being flewn by Danish pilots. This year a Free Danish Naval Force has come into existence, manned by Danes.

More than 98 per cent of all Danes in India are members of the Free Danish movement and have recently presented the Indian Red Cross with a number of Ambulance units. A photo of the unit from Danes in South India is enclosed. [Published on this page.—*Ed.*]

Yours faithfully,
EINAR ANDERSEN,
Secretary, The Danish Council for India.

WAR DIARY

BRITAIN AND THE COMMONWEALTH

15TH JULY.—Mr. L. S. Amery, Secretary of State for India, speaking at a London meeting of the Institute of Export, said that in the immediate post-war period, British opportunity for co-operating most effectively with Indian requirements and aspirations would, no doubt, be in the provision of capital goods which India would most urgently need for industrial re-equipment and expansion. Later, it might be more in the provision of more specialized types of consumer's goods that the growth of India's prosperity might call for. In either case, British success would correspond directly to the extent to which British export policy was one of whole-hearted co-operation in India's effort to raise herself to a higher plane of economic efficiency. There must be no assertion or implication of British domination.

In the House of Commons today, Mr. L. S. Amery stated that Indian casualties, including casualties to British officers of the Indian Forces up to August 31, 1942, were 3,286 killed, 9,168 wounded, 86,289 missing. It was also disclosed that 40 per cent of the officers recruited since the outbreak of the war had been Indians.

21ST JULY.—The Viceroy-Designate, Field-Marshal Wavell who has been raised to the peerage will commemorate his campaign in Africa in his new title. He will be known as Viscount Wavell of Cyrenaica and Winchester. It was in Cyrenaica that he won his first victories against the Axis when he drove the Italians out of Cyrenaica to the borders of Tripoli in 1941.

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MIDDLE EAST

15TH JULY.—Turko-Syrian Frontier is to be closed today or to-morrow. No reason has been given for the step.

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INDIA, BURMA AND CEYLON

15TH JULY.—Lieut.-General Sir Noel Beresford-Peirse, G.O.C. in charge, Southern Army, addressed the Standing Committee of the All-India Editors' Conference in Bombay. He explained how the Southern Army had been helping the civil Government in conveying foodstuffs and other essential materials for consumption by the civil population.

19TH JULY.—Early this morning an enemy aircraft approached the east coast of Ceylon. Air-raid warning was sounded and anti-aircraft guns went into action. No bombs are reported to have been dropped.

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UNITED STATES AND THE ATLANTIC

20TH JULY.—United States Lease-Lend Aid for June 1943 totalled 1,030 million dollars, making the aggregate value of the United States' assistance to the Allies nearly 18 billion dollars. This is the first time lease-lend has exceeded a billion dollars in a single month.

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RUSSIA

15TH JULY.—Announcement is made to-day that the British Overseas Airways have opened a through air service between Britain and Moscow *via* North Africa, Cairo, Iraq, Persia, Astrakhan and Kubishev.

According to the Soviet Communiqué to-night, the Russian army north and east of Orel launched an offensive against German troops in two directions and pierced strongly fortified defensive lines of Germans on a wide front and advanced into German occupied territory. The battle of the Kursk-bulge has taken a dramatic turn during the last 24 hours, the Germans being obliged to abandon further attempts to break through the Soviet lines north of Kursk and in the Byelgorod area. A famous Soviet mystery gun "Kutusha" played an important part in the battle of Kursk. The offensive in Orel sector is under the command of *General Timoshenko* and is regarded as in relief of *General Rokossovky's* army in the Kursk area.

16TH JULY.—Marshal Timoshenko's troops are already in the suburbs of Orel. Advanced Russian patrols were operating this morning on the Briansk-Orel railway, the main German lifeline for supplies and reinforcements for the Orel front due south *Elnsk* which has been already captured by the Soviet troops. The Red army is smashing into the German Orel salient from three directions.

17TH JULY.—Three Russian armies are closing in on Orel, and the offensive is moving to a climax.

18TH JULY.—The position about Orel is that Soviet forces stand some 15 miles east of it, some 20 miles to the north and between 35 and 40 miles from it to the south. The position before the German offensive at Kursk has been fully restored.

The entire Russian theatre from the Kuban bridgehead to Orel is now ablaze. The Soviets throughout possess the initiative, attacking with powerful armies, lavishly equipped with weapons of all kinds, against German defence lines. In Orel area Russians have approached the outer defences. The war's biggest tank battle is raging in the Byelgorod sector wherein the Soviets are making headway. On the Donetz front the Soviets launched powerful attacks on the 17th before dawn. According to a German news agency's military correspondent, *the Russian Summer Offensive has now begun and the biggest defensive battle in the east, so far, is now raging. For the past 48 hours the whole east front from the Kuban bridgehead to Volkhov and Leningrad has been in flames.* The defensive battle at *Mius* and on the Middle Donetz as well as north of Orel is gigantic in scale. German resistance in the *Orel Bulge* is stiffening. It is one of the strongest German sectors on the whole front. Soviet air supremacy remains one of the outstanding characteristics of the Orel battle.

21ST JULY.—A National Committee, called the Free Germany National Committee consisting of German nationals, including German prisoners of war has been set up on Soviet soil on July 12, headed by well-known German writer Erich Weiner. A manifesto issued by it condemns the Hitler regime in Germany, forecasts its early collapse, and urges no further postponement of the task of setting up a German National Government. It is having its own paper in German.

Soviet forces have reached within seven miles of Orel. The Soviet advance in the Byelgorod sector has completely liquidated the gigantic efforts made by the Germans during their offensive.

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FREE FRANCE

15TH JULY.—Mr. Anthony Eden, Foreign Secretary, replying to a question in the House of Commons, stated that no decision has yet been taken as to the precise degree of formal recognition that the British Government may accord to the French National Committee of Liberation. The British Government, no doubt, looked with sympathy and good will on this Committee.

21ST JULY.—Mr. Churchill told the House of Commons that he had officially prepared a document to acquaint British officials and the British Press with the view of the Prime Minister on the subject of de Gaulle and that he was prepared to discuss it in a secret session of the House.

His Majesty the King received General Giraud in London and had a long talk with him.

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GERMANY AND OCCUPIED EUROPE

17TH JULY.—Aircraft of the Fighter Command in Britain on an offensive patrol attacked air fields and railway targets in France, Holland and Belgium and shipping off the Dutch coast. American heavy bombers attacked Amsterdam and north-west Germany in day-light.

18TH JULY.—Mustangs of the British Royal Air Force shot down two Axis aircraft off the Dutch coast. Bombers escorted by fighters attacked the airfield at Abbeville and two German aircraft were destroyed. Beaufighters escorted by fighters attacked a German convoy off Den Helder and damaged two ships. Four German fighters were destroyed.

20TH JULY.—Germany is reported to have handed over the whole of Macedonia to Bulgaria, except Salonika and the immediate hinterland to the depth of 20 miles.

According to a German News Agency 33 bombers attacked a German convoy off the Arctic coast.

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ITALY AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

15TH JULY.—In Sicily the British forces which captured Augusta are now massing at the foot of the hills situated south-east of the plain of Catania and battering the outer defences of the city. Seven aerodromes have been captured and the number of prisoners is increasing hour by hour. Since this campaign started at least 12,000 prisoners have been taken. Besides, the British Eighth Army, the American Seventh Army and the Canadian forces, there are French forces also fighting in Sicily, the fierce Moroccan Goums who are native hill fighters. The commander of the 44th Italian Napoli division has surrendered to the Allies with his staff.

16TH JULY.—Catania airfield has been heavily bombarded from the sea. A number of additional towns have fallen into Allied hands. Prisoners taken by the

Allies in Sicily now total 20,000. Naples, Foggia and Genoa, all in Italy, have been the target of heavy Allied air raids. There have been further landings in Sicily of Allied troops, tanks and artillery. General Montgomery told a Canadian war correspondent, "I am quite satisfied."

A message from President Roosevelt and Mr. Churchill was broadcast from Algiers to the Italian people, informing them that the time has come for them to decide whether the Italians shall die for Mussolini and Hitler or live for Italy and for civilization.

18TH JULY.—General Eisenhower has designated General Sir Harold Alexander as Military Governor with supreme authority in Sicily. General Alexander has issued his first proclamation.

One-third of Sicily is now in Allied hands. Axis prisoners so far total well over 30,000.

Port Empedocles has been taken by the Allies.

The coastal road, north from Catania, towards Messina is being constantly bombed by the British who are cutting off the retreat of the defenders.

The important town of Agrigento in south-western Sicily has been captured by the United States Army troops.

Allied planes flew over Rome and dropped leaflets.

Field-Marshal Olfram Freiherr Von Richthofen has been sent from the Russian front to act as commander of the combined Italo-German air forces in Sicily. He is known as a tough and ruthless commander, usually appearing when a situation for the Axis is critical.

19TH JULY.—The *Dagens Nyheter* in Stockholm published a report from its Rome correspondent suggesting that more explicit Allied peace conditions backed by proper guarantees would cause the Italians to capitulate.

The Fascist Party Secretary, in a broadcast from Rome, urged the people of Italy to resist an Allied invasion.

Land fighting in Sicily is becoming more intense. The Eighth Army battled for every inch of ground on the approaches to Catania, whilst to the left, the Canadian forces fought their way northward over a difficult country. The United States troops under General Patton pushed their way steadily forward to the north and north-west. Sicilians are co-operating with the Allies. The British fleet is constantly shelling the coast road from Catania to Messina. According to Morocco Radio, the fall of Catania is imminent.

Rome was raided by American flying fortresses, the first bombs dropping at 9-13 in the morning. The raid was heavy, dropping 350 tons of high explosives and lasted 2½ hours. The raid was on military targets and was preceded by leaflets.

20TH JULY.—Rome had a second air raid to-night, according to the German Radio.

21ST JULY.—A general Axis retreat to the north-east tip of Sicily at Messina has begun. Half of Sicily has now been captured by the Allies, while the Catanian plain is now sealed at both ends. Enna, a town in Central Sicily and important railway and road junction, not far from Catania, has been taken by the Allies.

Malta had its heaviest air raid since December 18, 1942.

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THE FAR EAST

15TH JULY.—In the South-West Pacific Allied troops are closing in on MUBO bastion, key point in Japan's defence line before Salamaua. Ships, planes and troops are pouring into the South-West Pacific theatre from United States.

16TH JULY.—In the South-West Pacific the MUBO bastion of the Japanese in New Guinea has been captured by the Allied forces and all organized resistance has ceased there. Allied forces are continuing their advance to MUNDA in New Georgia. Mubo is the last bastion covering the main Japanese base of Salamaua, 15 miles to the north. The capture of Mubo is the culmination of a seige lasting a year.

In the north-east Pacific the United States light surface craft bombarded KISKA for the fifth time this month.

19TH JULY.—General Tojo, Japanese Prime Minister, at a Tokyo Conference to-day, warned the audience not to under-estimate the Anglo-American Powers who are now attempting to invade East Asia. He also advised them to prepare for the final offensive which is deliverable at any time.

20TH JULY.—Chinese troops have been fighting a stubborn battle against superior Japanese forces for the past ten days in Tai Hanshan mountains in south-east Shansi says Chinese communiqué.

21ST JULY.—In the South-West Pacific Japanese troops are bitterly resisting Allied advance in New Guinea towards Salamaua. The Japanese have suffered heavily in surface craft during the present month, three cruisers, thirteen destroyers, one submarine chaser, one freighter and one tanker have been sunk, and many more damaged. Tightening of the investment of Munda has now rendered supply or reinforcements of the enemy dangerous and difficult.

NEW BUILDING

[*The following sonnet gives an encouraging picture of the post-war world which will be one enriched by labour, a fair and free world, though not flawless, as a flawless one will be too dry for humanity to live in—an idea which echoes Tennyson's: "The low sun makes the Colour."*]

No New Jerusalem will this be.
No towers set with gems, no paving
Golden, nor heavenly water laving
High walls of jasper, opal, amethyst
Will in this new abode of bliss be.
Not here Utopia nor yet sunkist
Resplendent Paradise of old engraving.

Here are no idylls of the glowing
May morning of mankind, no dreaming
Republic of content, past seeming
Projected into thought and deemed more fair
As in the mind for ever growing.
This world is hard and in the living air
Shine hands at work, the sweat like day-dew gleaming.

Here is a world enriched by labour,
Where craftsmen love their tools and linger
With careful eye, caressing finger
Beside the lathes and gadgets of their trade.
Here is man friend as well as neighbour
And each is honoured in his rightful grade.
Except the parasite, the creeper-clinger.

The earth yields brighter fruit, so tended
That soil's renewed when crops are taken
And over healthy land high grass is shaken
When winds whirl over miles of close-knit farms.
The rape of nature is well-ended
And mantling green thrown over ancient harms.
Together husbandry and hope awaken.

Here men weigh words, and slowly learning
To sift the true from false give hearing
No more to charmers with endearing
Gossamer promises, but listen to the grave
Forge-hammered thought of seers discerning
The poise and counterpoise of weak and brave,
Of need and measure to end want and fearing.

This is the world men fought and died for,
A fair free world, though not a flawless.
Mankind now, thrusting out the lawless,
Shall live as men and women, not as beasts.
This is the world that we have cried for
When sunk in slums or foundering in feasts.
And here are bricks to build with, firm, not strawless.

Men tested in the fire and water
And women too by ordeal flaming
And agonies of blood and shaming
Tempered to spring and strength of alloy steel.
The man's son and the woman's daughter
Taught by the travail truth to think and feel.
Sound the foundations are and sound the framing.

Lay the foundations, dig the garden;
Roll up the sleeves and take the measure
To lay out cities of new treasure
Brighter than Eldorado or Peru.
Pour out the concrete, watch it harden,
Rivet the girders. Great the work you do
And, victors, you shall work with passionate pleasure.

—R.G.

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